

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /074 W

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R 270934Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4397

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 3312

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IZ, PLO

SUBJECT: SYRIA EXPLOITS ALLEGED SADDAM HUSSEIN INTERVIEW

IN AL-DUSTUR

1. SYRIAN MEDIA AUGUST 26 FEATURED EXTENSIVE COMMENTARY ON ALLEGED CRITICISMS OF SYRIA, ARAB STATES IN GENERAL AND PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE BY SADDAM HUSSEIN TO PRO-IRAQI BEIRUT MAGAZINE AL-DUSTUR.

2. ACCORDING EXCERPTS PUBLISHED HERE, SADDAM STATED "WE HAVE TAKEN A POLITICAL DECISION TO ATTACK SYRIA, AND OUR POSITION WILL NOT CHANGE IRRESPECTIVE OF HOW SYRIA TRIES TO REVISE ITS RELATIONS WITH IRAQ." SYRIAN COMMENTARY CLAIMS THAT SADDAM ADMITTED CRISIS WITH SYRIA WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND UNRELATED TO EUPHRATES WATERS. PRESS REPORTED THAT SADDAM REFUSED TO HELP SYRIA DEFEND GOLAN: "WE REFUSE TO STRAIN OUR ECONOMY TO AID SYRIA AND WE REFUSE

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TO LET OUR ARMY GO TO SYRIA IN DEFENSE AND WE REFUSE TO LET OUR ARMY GO TO SYRIA IN DEFENSE OF GOLAN. WE PREFER THAT

GOLAN REMAINS OCCUPIED AS A SPUR TO CONTINUE THE BATTLE."

3. RE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE, SADDAM REPORTEDLY SAID
MOVEMENT REFLECTED "INTERNATIONAL ORIENTATIONS" RATHER
THAN PALESTINIAN OPINION. "THE RESISTANCE HAS LOST ITS
LUSTER AND IS CHAINED TO SYSTEMS AND TEXTS. HE WARNED
THAT "THE RESISTANCE AS A WHOLE (IS) EXPOSED TO
SLAUGHTER." COMMENTARY INTERPRETED THIS AS MEANING IT SHOULD BE
READY FOR TOTAL LIQUIDATION. SADDAM ENDED WITH COMPLAINT THAT
ARAB STATES MISUNDERSTAND IRAQI ATTEMPTS TO DISCUSS WITH THEM
CURRENT DEVELOPMENTY.

4. COMMENT: ASSUMING REASONABLE DEGREE OF ACCURACY BY
SYRIAN SIDE IN QUOTING ABOVE REMARKS FROM CONSIDERABLY
LONGER INTERVIEW, SADDAM'S COMMENTS SHOULD AID SARG IN
REINFORCING ITS MESSAGE TO PLO THAT RESISTANCE HAS NO
BETTER FRIEND THAN DAMASCUS.
MURPH

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